

Re: 05-235

I am writing in support of dropping all Morse Code requirements for the licensing of amateur radio operators.

I am the licensee of K7DB. I was first licensed in 1972 at age 14, and I passed the Amateur Extra exam three years later.

Modern digital protocols and voice modes are far superior to Morse Code for emergency and public service communications. And more importantly, dropping the Morse Code requirement will increase the pool of licensed amateur radio operators (and the corresponding stock of radio equipment and radio systems) available for public service and emergency communications.

If one's motivation in retaining the Morse Code requirement is to act as a filter, toward the goal of discouraging casual license applicants who might be less likely to use the amateur radio spectrum responsibly, one could adopt any difficult task – e.g., the ability to pass a difficult math test, or to perform 100 push-ups, etc. But a better “filter” would be a requirement to acquire technical and communications skills that are more likely to benefit the public.

David A. Behar